

COMMUNITY TALKS NEWSLETTER

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Integrated Health Care Local to Global



Alcohol consumption is on a sharp rise in Vietnam with an increase in alcohol consumption per capita from 2003-2005 from 3.1 liters to 8.3 liters in 2015-2017 (Hanh, Assanangkorhehai, Geater, Hanh, 2019). Alcohol use prevalence was 80.3% for males and 11.2% for females aged 24-69 years old, with 44% of the males engaged in heavy episodic drinking (Hanh et al., 2019). The WHO reported that 8.9% of males and 0.9% of females have an alcohol use disorder; whereas, 5.9% of males and 0.1% of females are alcohol dependent (Luu et al., 2014).

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CSWPDF IT Associate

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Publisher

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Md. Habibur Rahman

A Promising Social Worker
Founding President
CSWPD Foundation
Bangladesh

Editor's Note



Sug Pyo Kim

President
Daegu Association of Social Workers
South Korea

We would like to convey our sincere regards to all distinguished authors for their precious thoughts to signify the title of the newsletter “Integrated Health Care: Local to Global”. We, on behalf of the Community Social Work Practice & Development (CSWPD) Foundation, Bangladesh and Daegu Association of Social Workers-DASW, South Korea, would love to whole heartily recognize your contribution on accomplishing the publication of Vol-03, Issue No-02 of the *Community Talks International Newsletter*, which includes 26 free format articles on Integrated Health Care: Local to Global issues.

You might know that CSWPD Foundation is a non-profit and purely non-political, Bangladesh-based, registered community service organization, which has been moving forward, leaving notable remarks in social work practice and keeping a global focus. In this issue, we are focusing on Integrated Health Care and are highlighting the scenarios both locally and globally.

We know that Integrated Health Care is one of the most important aspects in the world today and especially in Bangladesh. In this post-Covid-19 pandemic scenario, the socio-economic, mental, and physical conditions of people have taken a nosedive. Hence there is immense demand in the field of Integrated Health Care. It is truly believed that your engagement and contribution would be our future inspiration towards progress in this field for the improvement of the global social conditions regarding Integrated Health Care.

We are very thankful to the working teams, editorial boards, advisors, and volunteers; who really extended tremendous efforts to make this event and publication successful. We express our heartiest felicitation and indebtedness to them.

We, on behalf of the entire teams of both organizations, would like to dedicate this issue to all the social workers who are toiling diligently to provide a better future all over the world.

Md. Habibur Rahman

Sug Pyo Kim

PREVIOUS EVENTS



well-being that transcends boundaries and resonates with the global pursuit of holistic health for all.

Healthy Taxes, a Strategy for Social Health Care, and a Global Proposal



Mr. Hjasnytn Fidel Cabrera Martínez

Public Accountant, Law Graduate, Master in Tax Law and Master in Public Administration Mexico

Mexico City

Since ancient Rome, the tax figure in the modern State, being that which is limited by laws, has figured to this day, with different nuances than those of then, given that the legal principles of those were applicable to subject peoples (Mexican legal dictionary, 2007, definition).

In this way, the financing of public expenses of a State like Mexico or Colombia, for example, is a reality, also through the payment of taxes.

Extra-fiscal purposes of taxes

However, currently taxes not only seek to be the main financing engine of the State, but also to drive economic, and even social health, understood as the capacity of the "community, immersed in a culture and in a territory.", to relate healthily, harbouring feelings of support and trust" (Robledo-Martínez, 2015).

Hence the extra-fiscal purposes of taxes, where they seek to "promote, guide or discourage certain activities or social uses, depending on whether they are considered useful or not for the harmonious development of the country" (Supreme Court of Justice

of the Nation. Plenary. Contradiction of thesis 32/2006-PL).

In this case we can see tax charges on harmful products such as tobacco, alcoholic beverages, fossil fuels and sugary drinks, to repress consumption, increasing the sales price with additional economic charges strategically designed for this.

Healthy taxes

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that healthy taxes seek to tax unhealthy products, since their consumption generates risk factors for various non-communicable diseases. (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, respiratory diseases and diabetes, which is why the WHO has adopted this type of taxes within its Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020 (Pan American Organization of Health, sf).

In greater perspective, these taxes seek to mitigate bad consumption habits of the general population, since according to WHO data, of the total deaths in the world, 71% are caused by this type of diseases (Bello Sua, J.R. 2022).

Relevance of Healthy Taxes in any State

To justify this type of taxes we can point out the following objectives:

1. Higher population indices in health.
2. Cost reduction for long-term medical care.
3. Increase in labor productivity.
4. The generation of tax revenues.

In summary, the main reason that we could establish for this type of taxes, given their extra-fiscal purposes, would be the redirection of consumption for specific sectors by creating filters by income levels and the reduction of mortality due to bad

consumption habits (Pan American Organization of the Health, nd).

An example, the case of Smoking

The World Bank has pointed out that, according to information from the WHO, as of 2018, tobacco causes the death of more than 7 million people each year (World Bank, nd) and an additional 1.2 million correspond to non-smoking people (Pan American Organization of Health, 2022).

At a global level, the problem of smoking requires strong and intelligent public policies to counteract its harmful effects. Many examples could be cited, but we would like to refer to 2 specifically: In Colombia, the Sub directorate of Non-Communicable Diseases indicated that 12.9% of the population was addicted to cigarettes, with figures as of 2017. (Ministry of Health, 2017). For its part, in Mexico, the figures are very similar, given that as of 2017, 17.49% of the population is a smoker. (Secretary of Health, 2017).

WHO has monitored the global tobacco epidemic through the MPOWER package which represents (M) monitoring the prevalence of tobacco use and tobacco control policies; (P) protect against exposure to tobacco smoke; (O) offer help to quit tobacco; (W) warn about the dangers of tobacco; (E) enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, and (R) increase taxes on tobacco products. (Pan American Health Organization, 2022).

In this way, it is observed that the package contemplates healthy taxes, considering as part of the measures, increasing the consumer price through additional taxes (letter R). PAHO presents in its report that 28 American nations, out of a total of 35, are already implementing the consumption tax, ranging at rates ranging from 13.1% to 73.1% (Pan American Health Organization, 2022). (1)

Challenges regarding healthy taxes, the case of video games and a practical proposal

According to the Newzoo consultancy report, by 2022, it is estimated that there are approximately 3.2 billion video gamers in the world who generate 184.4 billion dollars (Newzoo, 2022).

This is relevant, when considering the criteria reflected in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V (DSM-5) of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the eleventh version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) of the World Health Organization (WHO) where both postulate **addictions** to video games (gaming disorder) within the section of mental disorders (Sotés Martínez, et. al., 2022).

Two specific aspects are established, such as: a) psychological dependence, observed in loss of control, intense desire, mood fluctuation and focus; and b) Serious, intrapersonal (physical and/or psychological) and/or interpersonal (academic, work, family, economic, legal) consequences (Carbonell, X., 2020).

The general agreement between the DSM-5 and ICD-11 is that video games can generate an addiction, if this occurs within a period of 12 months of diagnosis (2), both consider those that are online and the study is aimed at adults; For its part, only the ICD-11 indicates that the disorder can also occur in those who do not connect to the internet (Carbonell, X., 2020).

The ICD-11 came into force in January 2022, which means that countries that are members of the WHO must establish action strategies for the diagnosis and treatment of addiction, without seeking to pathologize everyday life. In China, the use of video games by minors is already limited to 3 hours per week (FEW, 2021).

In that sense, considering healthy taxes as a containment formula to create the necessary filters within the universe of video game consumers could be a measure that would seek

to mitigate the negative effects that we have pointed out, thereby seeking to reach 4 points, which has all healthy taxes, within this type of consumption.

Conclusions

We consider that the use of healthy taxes is a great tool that allows States to provide fiscal resources and at the same time direct healthy consumption.

WHO member countries will have to consider the use of Healthy Taxes as a mechanism for prevention and attention to health problems that arise in the general population, from a broad and modern approach to illnesses, such as the diagnosed addiction of gaming disorder.

Notes

(1) The nations are Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

(2) This period is necessary to distinguish between a mental disorder and a temporary discomfort (Carbonell, X., 2020).

Conflict of interests

The author declares the absence of conflicts of interest.

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